IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1 - 19 (cancelled)

20. (New) A drive socket for a fastener which is driven by a key driver, comprising:

a plurality of rounded lobes with contact surfaces positioned about a center of the fastener;

a plurality of non-contact sections with non-contact surfaces positioned about the center of the fastener, each non-contact section being located substantially opposite one of the rounded lobes; and

recesses located between the rounded lobes and the non-contact section.

21. (New) The drive socket of claim 20, wherein each of the rounded lobes projects inward toward the center of the fastener.

22. (New) The drive socket of claim 20, wherein each of the recesses forms a substantially smooth transition between one of said rounded lobes and one of said non-contact sections.

23. (New) The drive socket of claim 20, wherein the rounded lobes are positioned to provide a first clearance between an apex of each of the rounded lobes and corresponding surfaces on a key driver inserted into the drive socket, and the non-contact

sections are positioned to provide a second clearance between the non-contact sections and corresponding surfaces on the key driver.

24. (New) The drive socket of claim 23, wherein:

the first clearance is approximately 0.04 mm (0.0015 inch); and

the second clearance approximately 0.10 mm (0.0038 inch).

25. (New) The drive socket of claim 20, wherein the recesses are sized to provide sufficient clearance such that the corners of a key driver inserted into the drive socket do not contact a wall of the drive socket.

26. (New) A drive socket for a fastener which is driven by a key driver, comprising:

a plurality of lobes of substantially equal radius positioned about a center of the fastener, the lobes being substantially equidistant from the center of the fastener and a substantially equal distance from each other, each of the lobes including a radius portion and a flat contact surface, the flat contact surface being located adjacent and tangential to the radius portion.

27. (New) The drive socket of claim 26, wherein each of the lobes projects inward toward the center of the fastener.

28. (New) The drive socket of claim 26, wherein the radius of the lobes are substantially equal.

29. (New) The drive socket of claim 26, wherein the distance between the lobes and the center of the fastener is substantially equal.